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## General Comment

[Edited by Gilbert Campbell Scoggin, The University of Missouri.]

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In the *Atlantic Monthly* for December Professor Gilbert Murray has an article discussing "Great Britain's Sea Policy."

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The Board of Trustees of Syracuse University have decided that after the year 1920 the degree of A.B. alone shall be conferred by the college. The degree of B.S. shall be dropped, and henceforth Latin will be an optional subject even for entrance.

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Progress at the new University of British Columbia has naturally been impeded by the war. Professor H. R. Fairclough, who visited Vancouver last spring, found about four hundred and fifty students enrolled. When the university was first opened, Professor Fairclough was offered a chair in classics there, but he was induced to remain at Stanford University.

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A course of Lowell Lectures was delivered in October and November in Boston by Sir Edwin Pears, late president of the European Bar in Constantinople. The general subject was "The Byzantine Empire and the Turks." Among the topics treated were, "How Constantinople became the Capital of the Roman Empire," "Justinian, Road Builder and Law Maker," and "East and West in Religious Thought."

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At the Anderson Galleries in New York on November 15 and 16 were dispersed the inscribed books from the library of James Carleton Young of Minneapolis. These books are the works of nineteenth-century authors only, but several will interest the classicist. Included are autographed volumes of Boissier, Ferrero, Andrew Lang, Mahaffy, Lanciani, Max Müller, De Nolhac, and George Rawlinson, to say nothing of Jack London and others.

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Mr. Francis Warre Cornish, who had retired only last spring from the vice-provostship of Eton College, died in August. Born in 1839, he was educated first at Eton and then at King's College, Cambridge, where he was appointed to a fellowship. He prepared the translation of Catullus for the "Loeb Classical Library." Of his other books may be mentioned his life of *Jane Austen*, written for John Morley's series of "English Men of Letters," and *The History of the English Church in the Nineteenth Century*. He was the editor of a *Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities*, based on that of Sir William Smith.

Recently there has been announced the establishment in England of a Greek prize by Lord Cromer. This prize, to be known as the Cromer Greek Prize, is of the value of £40, and shall be awarded annually "for the best essay on any subject connected with the language, history, art, literature, or philosophy of ancient Greece." In awarding the prize preference shall be given to those essays "which deal with the aspects of the Greek genius and civilization of large and permanent significance over those which are of a minute or highly technical character." The prize is open only to British subjects, and is to be administered by the British Academy.

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Henryk Sienkiewicz died in Switzerland on November 15. He was born in Poland and his last days were given to aiding the stricken inhabitants of that unfortunate country. He was a graduate of the University of Warsaw, and while still a college student he had begun to write stories. The greatest of his historic novels are certainly those composing the trilogy, *Fire and Sword*, *The Deluge*, and *Pan Michael*. His most widely known and popular story is *Quo Vadis*, which is familiar to all classical students. The works of this novelist were made accessible to the English-speaking world through the translations of the American polyglot, Jeremiah Curtin.

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One could not expect such a man of action as was Napoleon to be able to give his days and nights to the reading of books. He was too busy making history to read much history. Yet when he was forced to retire from the French throne in 1814 and had withdrawn to his contracted realm at Elba, he constantly chafed under the want of books. Books were carried there for him and set up at Portoferraio, and this collection is described by Mr. Herbert Vivian in the *Library* for April, 1916. One would surmise that these books were of Napoleon's own choice, and they clearly show his limitations as a reader. With the exception of a few Italian books, all are in French. Among these last were included translations of Virgil, Nepos, and Caesar's *Commentaries*.

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Book-lovers—and all humanists are lovers of books—will find an interesting "History of the New York Public Library" in the current issues of that library's bulletin, beginning with July. A short account is given of each of the separate foundations that go to make up the great library of today. First in time is the Astor collection, which early came under the charge of Joseph Green Cogswell, one of our early American students to attend a German university. From the beginning Greek and Latin books formed a fair, but not predominant, part of this library; and in 1854 there were 3,100 volumes of classical authors and commentaries. No special attempt was made to acquire rare editions, but rather those most approved. However, the dozen or so copies of Homer included the *princeps* of 1488, itself an ornament to any library. The author of this history, Mr. Harry Miller Lydenberg, makes interesting comments from time to time on the Greek and Latin manuscripts of the collection.